

News Release

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED FOR GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NWR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN

Suffolk, Virginia – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and its satellite refuge, Nansemond National Wildlife Refuge on March 13, 2006 for a 30 day public comment period.

It was announced at that time that written comments on the draft CCP/EA will be accepted until the close of business on April 14, 2006. This public comment period is being extended by ten days until close of business, April 24, 2006, in an effort to encourage further public participation.

Public involvement is very important to help complete a successful plan and address issues of concern. The draft document is available on the web at <http://library.fws.gov/ccps.htm> and on the refuge website at www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp. Copies of the draft will also be available for review at public libraries in communities surrounding the refuge. In addition, the complete draft document and *Highlights* summary report are available by request on CD-ROM from the Refuge.

Please submit by regular mail to Deloras Freeman, Great Dismal Swamp NWR, 3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA, 23434. Comments may also be made by electronic mail, addressed to www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp. The comment must be inserted as plain text in the body of the message, otherwise it may be lost.

The final public meeting on the draft plan is scheduled from 4 pm to 7 pm on Thursday, March 30, 2006 at the Major Hillard Library, 824 Old George Washington Hwy, Chesapeake, VA 23323

